

HONORING COLONEL WILLIAM GLEN GUSTAFSON

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Colonel William Glen Gustafson of Marietta, Georgia, who sadly passed away last Tuesday.

Throughout his life, Colonel Gustafson served his country and his community. He was a master parachutist and troop commander during two tours of duty in Vietnam. He worked for the American Defense Preparedness Association here in Washington. He served on the academy review committees of former Georgia Senator Sam Nunn and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. And from 1991 to 1997, he served three terms as chairman of the Cobb County Republican Party.

In all these capacities, Colonel Gustafson exemplified the virtues of honor, dignity, and leadership. His death is a great loss not only for his family but for the entire Cobb community as well. I will always remember the enthusiasm he brought to his work and his commitment to solving every challenge he faced. I will greatly miss his charisma, his leadership, and, most of all, his friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Colonel Gustafson.

WELCOME HOME G.I. BILL

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in every major war since the Revolution, the United States Congress has acknowledged our returning veterans for their service and sacrifice. In this proud tradition, last weekend I announced a Welcome Home G.I. Bill for the veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. It is a bold new direction in helping our veterans achieve the success they so rightly deserve and earned.

The Welcome Home bill provides health care for up to 5 years for that member and their family if they cannot get it from their employer or lost it when they were overseas. The Welcome Home bill includes \$75,000 for college education and waives the \$1,800 fee required for the benefit. And, finally, it will offer them a tax-free \$5,000 down payment on a home.

Most importantly, under the plan all returning veterans are treated equally whether they served in active duty, National Guard, or Reserve. Because their experience over there was the same, their benefit over here should be the same.

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The Welcome Home Package is a small token for our appreciation for the debt of gratitude we can never fully repay.

Mr. Speaker, we do not owe our new-est veterans a favor. We must repay one.

SAY NO TO FOREIGN LAW INFLUENCING AMERICAN COURT DECISIONS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, George Washington once said that "history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of Republican Government." But the United States Supreme Court has taken to relying on foreign law and foreign documents when issuing opinions.

This week, the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution forbids the execution of convicted killers who are under the age of 18 when they commit their heinous crimes. Many of us might agree with this decision, but the court used the laws of other countries and foreign documents to determine whether American laws on this should stand.

American laws are made by the people chosen by Americans to make them. That is a republic. The court has no right or authority to consider any other basis for legal opinion. In doing so, it only undermines the very structure under which it operates, the consent of the governed as defined by the United States Constitution.

Foreign law is still a baneful foe of our republican government.

NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM A LEMON

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Canada has officially opted out of the laughably named National Missile Defense System. We should take a lesson from our neighbors. They knew the NMD has a terrible record; 10 highly artificial and carefully scripted flight intercept tests, only five resulting in hits. One hit occurred when the equivalent of an electronic "hit me" sign was put on a supposed attack missile.

The new booster rocket for the kill vehicle has a one-in-three success rate. That is a one-in-three chance of even getting off the ground. The Pentagon canceled nine of the original 20 tests to focus on building the system instead of testing it.

Today, the NMD benefits no one except a few contractors and their patrons. Meanwhile, the Canadians chose not to buy a lemon. Here we plant a lemon grove and then franchise lemonade stands.

CONGRATULATING DELL COM- PUTER FOR NEW PLANT IN FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CARO- LINA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dell for beginning construction last week on a new \$100 million assembly plant in the Fifth District of North Carolina.

The 527,000 square foot facility set to open in Forsyth County this fall will be Dell's largest plant in the world. It will bring jobs to 700 people in its first year and employ up to 1,500 people within 5 years. Most of these jobs are expected to be new and most of them will go to local residents. The plant will join Dell's two other American manufacturing operations in Texas and Tennessee and produce Dell's OptiPlex and Dimension desktop computers.

Dell, which was named Fortune Magazine's "Most Admired Company" for 2004, will be a tremendous asset to the Fifth District. Its presence will attract other businesses and suppliers that will add millions of dollars to the local tax base and bring thousands of new jobs to the region.

I would like to thank the local leaders in Forsyth and surrounding counties for working so hard to make this possible. I am proud of the success in manufacturing coming from the Fifth District and look forward to many prosperous years at Dell.

WORKING TOGETHER AS DEMO- CRATS TO IMPROVE SOCIAL SE- CURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there has been an ongoing discussion with the American public on what is good for them in the future and today. It is interesting that the American public, when you hand them the facts, understand the underpinnings of Social Security. Over 51 percent of them do not agree with the present plans offered by the administration to allegedly solve the solvency question on Social Security.

The American public understands what it means to take \$1.5 trillion away from Social Security to establish a private savings account that does not equate to solvency; the American public understands that Social Security is an insurance plan; the American public understands that any solution must be bipartisan; and the American public understands that when you begin to engage and divide a nation on a generational gap, that you are not moving toward a solution, you are only moving toward divisiveness.

Social Security has endured since 1935. It has provided an umbrella on a rainy day. It is an insurance plan, a survivor's benefit, and it allows the disabled to live in dignity.

Fix Social Security, do not destroy it. The plan before us destroys it. We are prepared to work together as Democrats, as Americans, to solve it.